operations in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Orissa and Rajasthan.

Task Force for textile industry

1605. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Task Force set up by the Prime Minister to map a policy and fiscal restructuring plan for the textile industry is likely to recommend an overhaul of Excise and Custom Duty on textile machinery and changes in the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation of this Committee and the benefits that will accrue to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles) to address three broad issues concerning the textile sector viz., fiscal issues, labour issues and banking/investment issues.

The Terms of Reference are:

(i) To study the Interim Report furnished by the N.K. Singh Steering Group on a Growth Oriented Fiscal Policy, in order to review the action taken on it, and to propose the Action Plan for the coming years to prepare the Textile Industry to meet the objectives of the NTxP-2000.

(ii) To review the existing labour laws and to recommend amendments necessary to those provisions which retard the growth of textile industry;

(iii) To assess the credit requirements for the modernization/revival of the textile industry and the availability of institutional credit, and to suggest measures for ensuring adequate flow of funds to the textile industry.

(b) The recommendations cannot be anticipated.